Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 EUR-12 /094 W

-----039950 131300Z /43

R 131123Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8105

CONFIDENTIAL NAIROBI 8836

E. 9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, KE

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 141940

1. I MET WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO KENYA FINGLAND THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS APPROACH ON RHODESIA AS DISCUSSED IN REFTEL. BRITISH TOOK OCCASION OF VISIT OF TED ROWLANDS THIS PAST WEKK TO MAKE APPROACH ON RHODESIA TO KENYAN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER JAMES OSOGO. ROWLANDS TALKING POINTS SUBSTANTIALLY THOSE OUTLINED REFTEL, BUT WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS UPON NEED FOR MODERATE COUNTRIES LIKE KENYA TO GIVE STRONGER PUBLIC SUPPORT TO EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN SO THAT IT MIGHT HAVE AN EVEN CHANCE TO SUCCEED. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTS THAT OSOGO WAS UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHETIC TO ROWLANDS' PLEAS FOR GREATER REASONABLENESS ON PART OF OAU MEMBERS AND FEELS THAT OSOGO WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVEY A SENSE OF THIS ATTITUDE TO FONMIN WAIYAKI WHEN THE LATTER RETURNS FROM THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE OAU MINISTERIAL AND HEADS OF STATE MEETINGS COMING SO SOON AFTER THE EVENTS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS AND THE GROWING SINISTER INTERPRETATION THAT IS BEING GIVEN, EVEN AMONG RESPONSIBLE AFRICAN LEADERS, TO THE PARIS AND BRUSSELS CONFERENCES ON ZAIRE, I AM NOT SANGUINE ABOUT HOW INFLUENTIAL THE MODERATES WILL BE IN KHARTOUM. THOUGHTFUL AFRICANS HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED USG INTERESTS IN AFRICA TO BE IDENTICAL WITH OUR WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE BELGIAN,

BRITISH AND FRENCH, AND HITHERTOFORE HAVE NOT BEEN AS SUSPICIOUS OF OUR MOTIVATIONS AS THEY HAVE, WITH REASON, CONTINUED TO SUSPECT THOSE OF OUR SAID ALLIES. HOWEVER, THE APPARENT HASTE AND EASE WITH WHICH OUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL INITIATIVES OF OUR ALLIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTER AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE TOOK PLACE WILL PROBABLY PROVOKE EVEN SOME MODERATE STATES TO DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS. WITH SUCH A PERVASIVE AIR OF SUSPICION THE DOMINANT FEELING AT KHARTOUM, WHETHER PALPABLE OR NOT, WILL PROBABLY BE ONE OF CYNICISM AND MISTRUST, AFFECTING EVEN THE RESPONSIBLY MODERATE STATES. LEMELLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB08836
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780246-0919 Format: TEL

From: NAIROBI

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaaceet.tel

Line Count: 75 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d156498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 STĂTE 141940

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 apr 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2374190 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, KE, OAU

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d156498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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